

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01158 130935Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-05 SY-05 INSE-00 /016 W
-----087980 131353Z /53

R 130815Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9843
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 1158

HONG KONG FOR INS DIDIR FELDMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, SN
SUBJ: GUARANTEES TO SINGAPORE ON BOAT REFUGEES PICKED UP
BY U.S. SHIPS

REF: STATE 60860

1. APPEARS FROM REFTEL THAT WE MAY REACH AN IMPASSE WITH GOS
NEXT TIME U.S. SHIP ARRIVES HERE WITH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
PICKED UP AT SEA. SINGAPOREANS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT
RESTRICTION WRITTEN INTO U.S. GUARANTEE FOR SUCH REFUGEES
IS UNACCEPTABLE, YET REFTEL INDICATES WE ARE UNABLE TO
LIFT IT. ACCORDINGLY, SEEMS LIKELY THAT NEXT U.S. VESSEL
TO BRING REFUGEES TO SINGAPORE WILL BE UNABLE TO LAND THEM
HERE AND WILL HAVE TO CARRY THEM ON TO NEXT PORT.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SET ASIDE
APPLICABLE U.S. LAWS IN THIS CASE. WE HAD HOPED, HOWEVER,
THAT SOME WAY OF REFORMULATING OUR LEGAL REQUIRE-
MENTS COULD BE ADVISED SO AS TO MEET GOS OBJECTIONS
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PAGE 02 SINGAP 01158 130935Z

TO LANGUAGE CURRENTLY USED IN GUARANTEES. WOULD
APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE AS TO
HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
U.S. LAWS.

3. SUGGESTION PARA 3 REFTEL THAT WE SPELL OUT FOR GOS
THOSE TYPES OF PERSONS EXCLUDABLE FROM U.S. UNDER

IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT WOULD, WE FEAR, BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. ONE MAJOR GOS REASON FOR OBJECTING TO RESTRICTION IN OUR GUARANTEE IS THAT SINGAPOREANS SUSPECT IT WOULD GIVE USG LATITUDE TO TAKE "DESIRABLE" REFUGEES AND LEAVE THE DREGS BEHIND IN SINGAPORE. CITING SECTION 212(A) TO SINGAPOREANS WOULD SIMPLY CONFIRM THIS SUSPICION.

4. ESSENCE OF SINGAPORE'S PROBLEM BOTH WITH OUR GUARANTEE AND WITH WIDER ASPECTS OF REFUGEE ISSUE IS GOS FEELING THAT USG IS (A) ASKING SINGAPORE TO OFFER TEMPORARY REFUGE TO ALL REFUGEES WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION YET (B) WILL NOT OURSELVES AGREE TO PROVIDE ONWARD HAVEN FOR THESE REFUGEES ON SAME BASIS. AS GOS, ACCURATELY OR NOT, SEES SITUATION, WE ARE THEREBY URGING GOS TO PROVIDE HELP FOR REFUGEES THAT OURSELVES ARE UNWILLING TO PROVIDE. WE CAN RIGHTFULLY POINT OUT TO SINGAPOREANS THAT TO DATE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN SADDLED WITH ANY REFUGEES WHOM WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO PLACE ELSEWHERE. SINGAPOREAN REJOINER IS THAT IF SUCH IS THE CASE, WHY CANNOT WE GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE. UNFORTUNATELY FOR OUR POSITION (ALTHOUGH FORTUNATELY FOR REFUGEES THEMSELVES) OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE GOS GUARANTEES LESS EQUIVOCAL THAN OURS. WHAT WE ARE SEEKING IS A WAY TO FRAME OUR GUARANTEES SO AS TO OVERLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SINGAP 01158 130935Z

COME THESE GOS SUSPICIONS OR, AT LEAST, NOT TO EXACERBATE THEM. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEES, PAROLE, BOAT CASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP01158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780111-0525
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780375/aaaacInd.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ab4474c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Type: TE
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